(a) whether any project titled India ICDS-IV is being prepared with the assistance from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the brief outline of the project, alongwith the details of financial assistance;

(c) whether the project has been finalized;

(d) if so, whether Anganwadi Federation and Central Trade Unions have been consulted on the project outlined and the implementation thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has negotiated with the World Bank for the International Development Association (IDA) support to the next phase of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme, viz. ICDS-IV Project, which is currently at the preparation stage. The proposed Project will have two major components viz. Nutrition and Early Childhood Education (ECE). The World Bank has indicated an assistance of US$ 450 million with US $ 250 million for the Nutrition Component and remaining US $ 200 million for the ECE Component.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Cheap and diluted system in SSA

961. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether SSA is nothing but a cut-rate system of education where focus is on doing everything cheap and standards have been diluted for practically everything, from ratio of teachers to a school to curiculum that is offered;

(b) whether elementary education is now reduced to eight years instead of 12, which the experts say is absolutely essential for children to find a right career;

(c) whether, in SSA, there are no teachers put para teachers-ill-qualified, people, unemployed village youth, who get a pittance and are termed as Shiksha Karmis, **etc; and**

(d) if so, the changes proposed in the SSA, to make it more focused **and** result-oriented?

♦ THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCED DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) **programme** which aims to achieve the objective of universalisation of elementary **education,** is **being** implemented in all districts of all States/UTs of the country with sharing of **funds between** the Central and the State/UT Governments. Teacher **recruitment and curriculum, which are** State subjects, are done/implemented as per respective **State/UT-specific policies.**

(b) As per the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986(as **modified in 1992), a common** educational structure 10+2+3 is envisaged. Regarding **further break-up of the first 10 years,** NPE provides that "efforts will be made to move **towards an elementary system comprising**